

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

-----100042 232109Z /62

R 230648Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8563

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, BG, CH

SUBJ: VISIT OF VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN

REF: A) DACCA 1450 (NOTAL); B) DACCA 1511 (NOTAL); C) 77 DACCA 0140 (NOTAL); D) SEOUL 1935; E) DACCA 1720 (NOTAL); F) DACCA 1747 (NOTAL)

1. VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN AND AN OFFICIAL  
ENTOURAGE OF THIRTY-THREE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES VISITED  
BANGLADESH FROM MARCH 18-21. THE DELEGATION, THE FIRST  
HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL CHINESE VISIT (AS DISTINGUISHED  
FROM VARIOUS TRADE OR GOODWILL TEAMS SUCH AS THAT HEADED  
RECENTLY BY WANG PING-NAN (REFTEL A) SINCE BILATERAL  
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RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED WAS WELCOMED LAVISHLY AS  
EDITORIALS EXPOUNDED ON "THE GENUINE, DEEP AND BOUNDLESS"  
FREINDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DURING THE VISIT, LI  
MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN AND TWO AGRE-  
MENTS WERE ULTIMATELY SIGNED, ONE ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION AND ANOTHER ON SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. FROM  
INITIAL READINGS, IT APPEARS THAT THE BDG CONSIDERED THE VISIT

A SUCCESS.

2. IN THE ECONOMIC ACCORD, THE PRC AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO BANGLADESH AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN WORTH TAKA 85 CRORE (\$56.7 MILLION) TO FINANCE PREVIOUSLY-PLANNED PROJECTS AND COMMODITY PURCHASES. EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE LOAN WILL BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER PLANT (REPORTED REFTEL B) AND AN IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE PROJECT COVERING A 4500 ACRE AREA IN KALIGANJ, DACCA DISTRICT. THE REMAINING TWENTY PERCENT OF THE LOAN WILL BE USED TO FINANCE COMMODITY IMPORTS. THE LOAN IS REPAYABLE IN EITHER CASH OR IN-KIND PAYMENTS OVER TEN YEARS FOLLOWING A TWELVE YEAR GRACE PERIOD.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE EXTENSIVE CEREMONIAL WELCOME, WHICH WAS IN RECIPROCATION FOR THE UNUSUALLY WARM WELCOME GIVEN PRESIDENT ZIA IN PEKING LAST YEAR (REF C), THE BDG WAS EAGER TO PAY ITS RESPECTS TO A COUNTRY WHICH SINCE RECOGNITION IN SEPTEMBER, 1975, HAS GIVEN BANGLADESH CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SUPPORT INTERNATIONALLY. AT A BANQUET MARCH 18 GIVEN BY THE BDG, ZIA INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION" FOR THE RAPIDLY GROWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND CHINA" AND USED THE OCCASION TO REITERATE "THE FIRM RESOLVE OF THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH TO SAFEGUARD THEIR HARD-EARNED INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY." LI GAVE HIS ASSURANCE DURING A RETURN BANQUET THAT "THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WILL, AS ALWAYS, CONFIDENTIAL

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RESOLUTELY SUPPORT THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THEIR JUST STRUGGLE TO SAFEGUARD NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY." LI ALSO NOTED THAT THE "ANTI-HEGEMONIST UNITED FRONT", WITH THE THIRD WORLD AS ITS MAIN STRENGTH, HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST HEGEMONISM.

4. THE ASSURANCES OF CHINESE BILATERAL SUPPORT WERE NO DOUBT INTENDED TO BOLSTER BANGLADESH IN ITS RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING INZJA (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, OF COURSE, WITH THE USSR). EDITORIALS PRAISED LI'S REMARKS, ESPECIALLY NOTING, AS DID THE BANGLADESH TIMES, THAT PEACE AND REGIONAL STABILITY WOULD BE ENHANCED BY CHINA'S CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP. THERE WAS NO MENTION PUBLICLY OF A PRC SPONSORED ASIAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE, RUMORS OF WHICH HAD BEEN HEARD IN SEOUL (REF D) AND ELSEWHERE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY SIGNATURE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, ECON, TGEN, BG, CH, (LI HSIEN-NIEN)  
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**Type:** TE  
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